

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 and 12 were pending in the application.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are hereby amended.

Claims 13-18 are newly added.

1. Claims 1-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Kimoto. Kimoto discloses only a mobile terminal which detects its position and transmits the position information to an information/service utilizing unit. Then, this information/service utilizing unit retrieves and makes available to the mobile terminal a relevant map or the like for the position. Kimoto does not provide for any communications between first and second client devices.

Applicant's amended claims, on the other hand, provide for communications between first and second client devices, where the communications are intermediated by a server computer of the communications network. There is not any client to client communications, with a server computer operating to intermediate the communications, described in Kimoto.

2. Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Drutman. Drutman discloses a server computer that does not "intermediate" communications between first and second devices. In particular, once the server computer of Drutman finds the first and second device, the server computer delivers to each device a respective "locating information" for the other device (e.g., Drutman, col. 9, lines 3-14). Then, the first and second devices can communicate without any handling of the communications by the server computer (e.g., Drutman, col. 9, lines 40-46).

Applicant's amended claims instead provide for a server computer that continues to handle (i.e., "intermediate") throughout the communications between first and second devices. Moreover, because the server computer intermediates the communications between first and

second devices, the location information of each of the first and second device need not be communicated to the other, unless a particular device directs that its location information be sent to the other device.

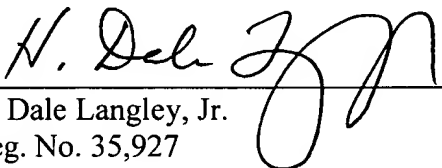
3. Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Kimoto in view of Schwartz. As previously discussed, Kimoto does not address any communications between first and second devices. Schwartz merely provides for CDPD and cellular packet data system in wireless links.

Applicant has hereby added new claims 13-18, which each depend on certain amended claims. The new claims more specifically and distinctly point out certain details/elements not found in the cited references.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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